

The extent to which Mr. Corbett's argument minimizes, if not actually ignores, the value of organization in creating common interest is particularly apparent in his brief discussion of Western Union. Though he approves the Atlantic Pact and the policy of negotiations from strength, he can see no advantage in developing the present alliances into a closer union. He offers no convincing arguments to support this conclusion. But he offers an opinion that military effectiveness would not be increased by such a development and that since there is no common interest among the nations concerned, except opposition to Soviet expansion, a Union will not hold together once the immediate threat has disappeared.

Mr. Corbett's preoccupation with the necessity of creating a community of interest before even attempting to establish supra-national institutions makes him ignore the potentialities inherent in the present international situation. Whether the military purposes of the Atlantic alliance would be better served by closer union, as General Eisenhower apparently believes, is an issue on which one might differ from Mr. Corbett. Far more important is the possibility, which the author does not acknowledge: that the common agreement now developing among the western nations could be utilized in the creation of world government. For it would seem almost certain that nothing would advance the cause of supra-national organization more effectively than the successful operation of a supra-national authority even if only among the nations of the West. All the humanitarian theories mentioned by the author would not be as persuasive in reducing national prejudice to international government as the example of an international organization effectively at work. It is unfortunate that, in what is otherwise a thorough and most valuable study, Mr. Corbett has not considered it necessary to look more searchingly at the significant developments already taking place among states outside the Soviet orbit.

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